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Imagery analysis report

## **Preparations for Initial CSS-X-4 ICBM Deployment, China (S)**

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**PREPARATIONS FOR INITIAL CSS-X-4 ICBM DEPLOYMENT, CHINA (S)****SUMMARY**

1. (S/D) Analysis of activity from June through August 1980 of four Chinese missile facilities (Figure 1) indicates that preparations for the initial deployment of the CSS-X-4 ICBM were underway. Construction of two ICBM silos near Luoning was externally complete, and preloading activity had begun. In addition, at the Luoyang SSM Rail Transshipment Facility (BE [REDACTED]) a missile train had arrived from Wanyuan Guided Missile Plant [REDACTED] and propellant railcars were observed for the first time. The CSS-X-4 ICBM is capable of striking any location in the USSR and the United States and has been under development since at least the mid-1960s

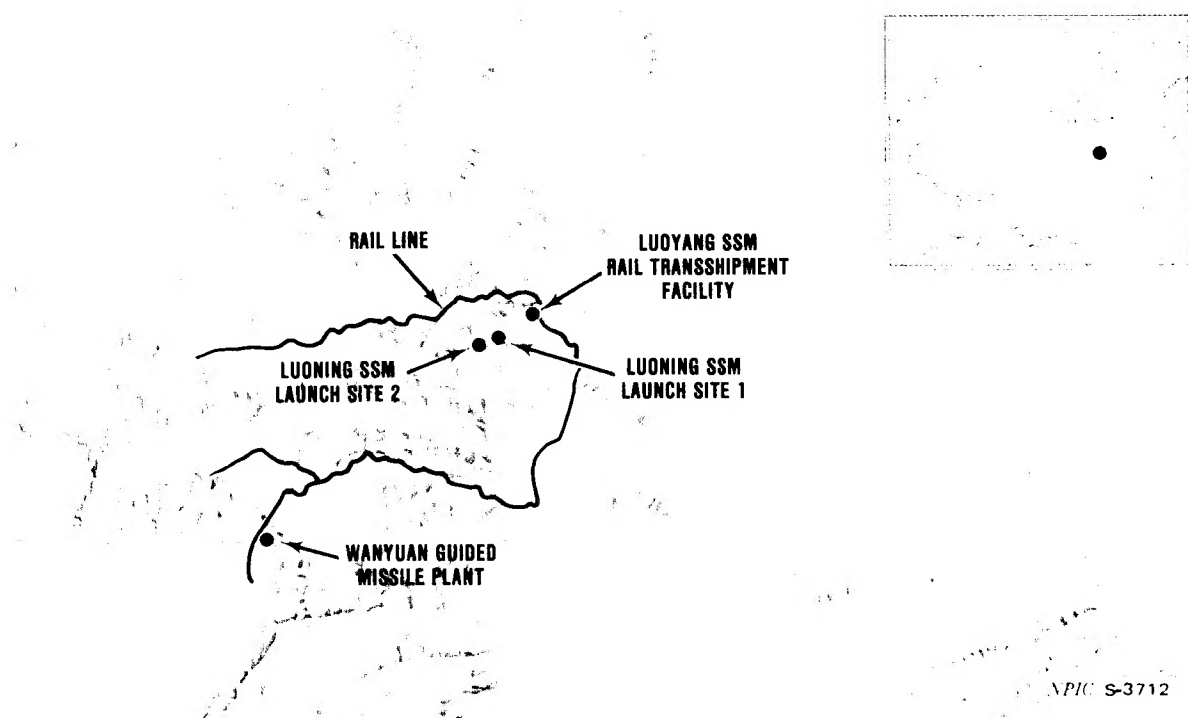
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**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY**

2. (S/D) At Luoning SSM Launch Site 1 [REDACTED] a silo appeared to be externally complete and the silo door, which consists of two halves that retract to either side of the silo, was in the closed position on [REDACTED]. The silo door was subsequently open on [REDACTED] and two mobile cranes, personnel, and unidentified materials were observed on the apron (Figure 2).

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**FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF CHINESE MISSILE FACILITIES**

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Enough construction debris has been removed from the silo apron to allow silo loading. No missile was visible in the open silo. On [ ] the silo door was observed closed, and no activity was observed on the silo apron.

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3. (S/D) At Luoning SSM Launch Site 2 [ ] the silo appeared to be externally complete, and the silo door, which also consists of two halves that retract to either side of the silo, was closed (Figure 3). An environmental cover which had previously covered the silo had been removed from the silo area. [ ]

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[ ] On [ ] a net-covered tentlike structure was erected over a portion of the silo apron access road. [ ]

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4. (S/D) During August, a missile train was observed at the transloading building at Luoyang SSM Transshipment Facility (Figure 4). The train contained two type C missile railcars (the model used to transport CSS-X-4 airframes), a type B missile transfer flatcar, and two type B propellant railcars. Although missile transporter railcars have been seen here on various occasions, this was the first observation of any type of propellant railcar at this facility. Type C missile railcars were first seen here in May 1979.

5. (S/D) Because of their light-toned and distinctive roof markings, the type C missile railcars at Luoyang were identified as having been at Wanyuan Guided Missile Plant on [ ] [ ] (Figure 5). The Wanyuan plant is believed to be involved in the production of the CSS-X-4 missile.

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### **Imagery Analyst's Comments**

6. [ ] The CSS-X-4 is a two-stage ICBM with a range of about 13,000 kilometers.<sup>1</sup> Engineering development on the missile system probably began during 1963 and 1964. Construction began on the prototype test silo for this system at Wuzhai SSM Research/Development/Training Launch Site B ([ ]) in mid-1968. The first flight test of the ICBM occurred from a surface launch pad at Shuangchengzi Launch Test Site ([ ]) in 1971. Construction began on the two operational CSS-X-4 silos at Luoning during late 1975. The first silo launch of the CSS-X-4 took place from Wuzhai Launch Site B on [ ]. A near-full-range test firing demonstration of the missile to a broad-ocean-area impact took place during May 1980<sup>2</sup> from Shuangchengzi to the Pacific Ocean near the Fiji Islands. This probably constituted the completion of the critical test program objectives for the CSS-X-4 system and paved the way for operational deployment. The use of the basic CSS-X-4 airframe as the CSL-2 space launch vehicle has probably increased China's confidence in the missile system and its reliability. In May 1980, Chinese leaders reportedly said that the missile system is part of the defense policy against Soviet aggression.<sup>2,3</sup> The CSS-X-4 missile system can provide complete target coverage of the Soviet Union and the United States from the silos at Luoning.

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**REFERENCES**

**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [ ] was used in the preparation of this report.

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**DOCUMENTS**

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3. Lib of Cong/FRD, Data Brief, *KYODO Cites China Youth News on ICBM Tests, "Hegemonic Threat,"* FBIS Daily 22 May 80 (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ]

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